



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

to draw from the civil and canon law where that has been necessary to explain the present state of our law.

Some minor inaccuracies are to be found, but absolute verity can hardly be expected in a work of such magnitude. However, by reason of the fact that it is limited to a statement of elementary principles, the present edition, like those which have gone before it is valuable chiefly to the student and practitioner who are seeking a concise statement of the fundamental principles of our law.

G. C. G.

THE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE, IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CIVILIZATION AS TO THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR.. By James M. Beck, late Assistant Attorney-General of the U. S. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1914. pp. xxiv, 200.

Mr. BECK's book is the amplification of two articles written for the New York Times shortly after the beginning of the war. It adopts the somewhat novel form of a legal argument addressed to the "Supreme Court of Civilization," the evidence analyzed consisting of the diplomatic records of the contending nations, so far as these have been published. Unfortunately the French "Yellow Book" appeared after Mr. BECK's book was in press. We do not think, however, that its disclosures modify in the least degree his conclusions; rather do they afford additional evidence in their favor. Mr. BECK's argument is bottomed upon the idea that there is such a thing as a public conscience of mankind, which must in the last analysis pass judgment upon the conduct of the parties involved in the present war. He refers pointedly to that "decent respect to the opinion of mankind" to which the framers of the Declaration of Independence appealed in justifying their course of action. It seems unreasonable to suppose that anyone will question the soundness of this general proposition. The book is written in the sincerity of strong conviction which is supported by an analytic faculty unusually keen. Mr. BECK is convinced that Germany is chiefly responsible for the war, and this he proceeds to demonstrate by a careful examination of 'the evidence.' It should be said in this connection that he is concerned only with the immediate cause of the conflict; he makes no pretence of searching out fundamental causes.

In his discussion of the diplomatic correspondence preceding the war, Mr. BECK lays great stress, and we think justly, upon the suppression of vital evidence by Germany. Although the German foreign office protested vigorously that it was making strong efforts to restrain Austria, its official publication discloses not a single communication between the two chancelleries, while Austria has failed to submit any diplomatic records at all. Again Mr. BECK easily disposes of the contention of the German ambassador at St. Petersburg that the German government had no foreknowledge of the Austrian ultimatum. He shows clearly by the admissions of the German Foreign Office that it was consulted by Austria previous to the issuance of the ultimatum, and that it gave unreserved approval to any course of action Austria might

consider necessary. This is supported by other evidence too complicated for review here. Mr. BECK then sets forth Austria's ultimatum and Serbia's conciliatory reply in parallel columns; he follows this by a review of the peace parleys and a spirited account of the Kaiser's dramatic return to Berlin and the subsequent correspondence with the Czar, leading up to the sudden precipitation of the war. The conclusion seems inevitable that up to the last moment Germany could have averted the catastrophe. The review of the case of Belgium is thorough and forcible. We are glad to see that Mr. BECK has given an illuminating discussion of neutrality, and has defended Belgium's right to remain neutral as not dependent on any treaty.

We cannot agree with the publisher's announcement that this work "will be accepted as belonging to lasting history." The writing of serious history is rarely synchronous with the event analyzed; moreover, it demands a thoroughly judicial attitude. This Mr. BECK has not. His style is controversial in tone and in erecting the theatrical 'Supreme Court of Civilization,' which dutifully pronounces judgment in the last chapter of the book, he has assumed the inconsistent role of advocate and judge. He has given a vigorous and to us convincing statement of the position of the Allies. We could wish he had been content to let it go as such, without making confident prediction of the final judgment of history.

W. T. B.

BENDER'S WAR REVENUE LAW, Matthew Bender & Co., 1914. By the publishers' editorial staff.

It is difficult to place this book in whatever may be the jural equivalent of flesh, fowl or good red-herring. At first glance it is an annotation, and is so named, of the Internal Revenue Act of 1914. If this were all, in the sense that statute annotations are familiar to lawyers, a mere copy of the act and the customary working digest would serve the purpose more effectively. These annotations are more broadly informative than is usually the case, presenting such sources of reference as opinions of the Attorney General, Treasury Decisions, Life and Correspondence of Sydney Smith and the rymes of Marvel. It might be called an index to the statutes and interpretations of our internal revenue law, particularly the Act of 1914, with some pointed commentary thereon.

J. B. W.